

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant submits for examination new claims 74-103.

The undersigned would like to bring to the Examiner's attention European Patent 1 706 652 B1 which corresponds to the instant application in Europe. The European case has been formally granted. The claims presented for examination in the instant preliminary amendment parallel the claims as allowed in Europe. Newly presented independent claim 74 corresponds to the subject matter of claims 1-4 of granted European Patent 1 706 652 B1. Claim 74 sets forth with specificity a connected assembly defining in detail the first and second hollow profiles and the connecting means for connecting same. It is submitted that independent claim 74 and the claims which depend therefrom comply with the formal requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, both first and second paragraphs, and define over any of the previously cited and applied prior art.

The early issuance of a notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

An earnest and thorough attempt has been made by the undersigned to resolve the outstanding issues in this case and place same in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or feels that a telephone or personal interview would be helpful in resolving any outstanding issues which remain in this application after consideration of this amendment, the Examiner is courteously invited to telephone the undersigned and the same would be gratefully appreciated.

It is submitted that the claims as amended herein patentably define over the art relied on by the Examiner and early allowance of same is courteously solicited.

If any fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

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